



# California State Parks

## *Quick Facts*



Last updated 1/10/2005

### **The Cultural Resources of California State Parks**

California State Parks are more than campgrounds and picnic areas. Within the State Park System are: forts, missions, ghost towns, cemeteries, churches & temples, lighthouses, gold mines, and much, much more.

#### **Cultural Resource Facts**

- 120 of the 278 park units in the California State Parks contain significant cultural resource features.
- California State Parks contain a wide variety of cultural resources. Many national and ethnic groups are represented at historic and recreation sites; historic businesses, industries, structures, communities and landscapes are recreated and/or interpreted; influential persons and professions are remembered; military and government events and facilities are recognized; and transportation and communication methods are explained.
- State Parks is responsible for documentation, preservation and care of 10,000 known prehistoric and historic archeological sites, 3,000 historic buildings, 1 million museum objects, more than 3 million archival documents and 2 million archeological specimens. From farming equipment to furniture to horse-drawn vehicles to tapestries, all can be found in park collections. Many items are on display, while others are held in storage for study or future exhibits.
- Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park contains the most extensive collection of Native American rock art in California.
- La Purisima Mission SHP is the most completely restored of California's 21 Spanish and Mexican-Era missions.
- The most productive gold mine in California history was the Empire Mine, now part of Empire Mine SHP. More than 5.8 million ounces of gold were brought out of the mine in the more than 100 years it was in active operation.
- The Joss House at Weaverville Joss House SHP is the oldest continuously used Chinese Temple in California.
- The oldest theater in California is The First Theatre, located in Monterey SHP.
- Fort Ross SHP is the site of the only Russian colony and settlement in the lower 48 states.



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- Hearst Castle has 165 rooms and was toured by more than 740,000 visitors in 2003/04. It houses the largest collection of European antiquities in California State Parks.
- Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park contains California's only town founded. Financed and governed by African Americans.
- La Purisima Mission, founded in 1787, was largely restored by the Civilian Conservation Corps beginning in 1934. It is the most completely restored of California's 21 Spanish and Mexican-era Missions. Today, the mission complex buildings and a portion of its lands are La Purisima State Historic Park.
- The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, located primarily in Anza Borrego Desert State Park, was the first of five dedicated National Historic Trails in the United States in 1990. It was elevated to National Millennium Trail status in 1999.